(b) if so, when the decision was taken and what progress has so far been made in that direction; and

(c) by when the imported aircraft carriers are due to be put out of the operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The exact dates of decommissioning have not been decided.

Naval exercise with Oman and Iran

1936. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy has recently held naval exercises with Oman and Iran;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereor;

(c) whether similar exercises have also been held with US Navy and others during the past two years; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the inferences drawn as a result thereof to upgrade and update Indian Navy and its equipments, war ships and infrastructure etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Joint Naval exercises were held only with Oman on 13th and 14th January, 1993 off Mina Qaboos harbour in Oman. Two Indian Naval ships, participated in these exercises, which included seamanship procedures, manoeuvering station keeping and firing by medium calibre guns. The Omani Navy was represented by five vessels of Fast Attack Craft type.

(c) Joint exercises were also held with the Navies of Australia, France, UK, USA, Singapore & Oman during the past two years. In addition Passage Exercises have been held with Australian and Indonesian Navies.

(d) Indian Naval ships have recently commenced exercising with foreign Navies. At the initial stages only very basic evolutions and communication procedures have been exercised.

Updating the MIG planes

1937. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been/are being taken to indigenise and update the production of MIG series of War-planes with or without Russian collaboration; and

(b) the number of MIG planes acquired from USSR indicating the year of purchase and their safe-flying period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Licences for manufacture of MiG-21 and MiG-27 aircraft in India were given by erstwhile USSR. Indigenisation of spares/components/systems is a continuous process and the same is done, after assessing techno-economic viabilty and availabilty from alternate sources. MiG-21 BIS aircraft is proposed to be upgraded to incease its operational capabilities.

(b) Aircraft can be flown till the completion of their Total Technical/Calendar Life, which is different for different types of aircraft. It would not be in the public interest to divulge the other details.

New training institutes for armed forces

1938. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some new training institutes for Armed Forces personnel and ex-servicemen are proposed to be established in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof; and

(c) by when these institutes are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Subject to the availability of resources, the Navy propose to set up an Amphibious Warfare Training School at Kakinada, in Andhra Pradesh. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for the implementation of the proposal.

Recovery of arms in Bombay, Gujarat and other parts of the country

1939. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports from our Coast Guards or Naval authorities about the interception of consignments of arms and explosives smuggled into the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) how these arms and explosives were smuggled into the country; and

(d) what effective steps have been taken by the Coast Guards and Navy to check the smuggling of arms and explosives into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The CG or Navy have no direct knowledge about the smuggling of arms and explosives into the country.

(d) A joint surveillance operation has been launched by the CG & Navy to check the smuggling of arms & explosives into the country. The patrollig off the West Coast has been intensified in close coordination with the Coastal States.

Offer of pilotless aircraft from Israel

1940. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has offered India its pilot less target aircraft;

(b) wheher Israel has also offered to jointly manufacture the aircraft;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter; and

(d) what would be its impact on the development of indigenous pilotless target aircraft in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) There is no offer for a pilotless target aircraft from Israel. Some preliminary proposals for Unmanned Air Vehicles from Israel have been received. No other details can be divulged in the national security interest.

Crash of MiG-21 aircraft

1941. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Air Force MIG-21 fighter aircraft crashed at the Rajasansi airport on 27th April, 1993;

(b) if so, what has been the extent of loss of life and property on account of the crash; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such unfortunate incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) One IAF MIG-21 aircraft met with an accident at the Rajasansi airport on 27th April, 93. The aircraft suffered major damage due to collapse of the left under-carriage. There has been no other loss of life or property on account of this accident.